

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, January 10, 2003

Hartzer Named Director of PERF

The Board of Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement Fund today appointed Craig E. Hartzer to be the new PERF executive director. Hartzer has served as commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development since August 1997.

Hartzer plans to begin his new duties on Feb. 10. By law, Hartzer's appointment is subject to the approval of the Governor.

"We are delighted to have a leader of Craig Hartzer's caliber," said PERF Board Chairman Jonathan L. Birge. "He has done an outstanding job running an agency whose operations include distributing tens of thousands of benefit checks every week and managing substantial amounts of federal, state and employer money."

PERF Board Vice Chairman Richard Doermer, who has served on the board since 1976, said, "I did not know Craig before his interview, and I was tremendously impressed with his intellect, experience, and lifelong commitment to public service. He has exactly the skills that we need in an executive director."

Hartzer holds a Ph.D. from Miami University and did his undergraduate work at Indiana University. Prior to his appointment as commissioner of DWD, Hartzer served as chief operating officer for the Indiana Department of Commerce and as policy director for Governor Frank O'Bannon.

Said Hartzer; "I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as the executive director of PERF. As a vested member of the fund, I understand how important it is to our members that we manage their money wisely and deliver their benefits promptly and accurately."

Birge added, "PERF and all of its members owe Fred Biesecker a debt of gratitude for his leadership in the interim period." Fred Biesecker, who has served as interim director of PERF since Oct. 2, 2002, plans to return to his private law practice at Ice Miller in February.

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